

## Message Text

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R 302110 Z MAR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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FOLL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO GENEVA FROM PARIS 29 MAR 73

REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 8869

E. O. 11652 : N/ A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, FR

SUBJECT: GATT ARTICLE XXIII ACTION AGAINST FRANCE

PASS AGRICULTURE AND STR

REF: PARIS 8663

1. WE RECEIVED NOTE VERBALE MARCH 29 FROM MFA. WE UNDERSTAND  
FRENCH EMBASSY WASHINGTON INSTRUCTED TO DELIVER COPY TO STR TODAY.

2. EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF NOTE AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS  
TO THE EMBASSY OF THE USA AND HAS THE HONOR TO REFER TO THE  
EMBASSY' S AIDE- MEMOIRES OF MARCH 21 AND SEPTEMBER 11, 1972 CON-  
CERNING THE MAINTENANCE UNDER QUOTA BY FRANCE OF CERTAIN PRODUCTS,  
ON THE SUBJECT OF WHICH THE USG HAD INVOKED ARTICLE XXIII OF THE  
GATT.

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THE FRENCH AUTHORITIES WISH TO CONFIRM BELOW THE ELEMENTS OF A SOLUTION WHICH HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF DETAILED CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO ADMINISTRATIONS FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. THEY HOPE THAT THESE PROPOSALS WILL MEET WITH THE DEFINITIVE APPROVAL OF THE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES.

I - THE STATUS QUO WOULD BE MAINTAINED WITH REGARD TO THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS COVERED BY THE PROCEDURE BEGUN UNDER ARTICLE XXIII.

II - CONCERNING THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, THE FOLLOWING MEASURES WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED:

1. - TERMINATION OF 1 JAN. 1975 OF THE QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS CURRENTLY IN EFFECT ON:

- DRIED AND DEHYDRATED VEGETABLES (07.03 EX C)
- CANNED TOMATOES (20.02 C).
- TOMATO JUICE (20.07 BEX II)
- AND CANNED FRUIT ( 20.06 BEX II), WITH THE EXCEPTION OF CANNED PINEAPPLES.

2. TERMINATION ON 1 JANUARY 1978 OF THE QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS CURRENTLY IN EFFECT ON PRUNES CONDITIONED FOR RETAIL SALE (08.12 EX C).

III - IN THE INTERVAL BETWEEN THE PRESENT DATE AND THE DATES MENTIONED ABOVE, THE FRENCH AUTHORITIES ARE PREPARED TO INCREASE THE QUOTAS RELATIVE TO EACH OF THESE CATEGORIES OF PRODUCTS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF CANNED PINEAPPLE, BY 35 PERCENT EACH YEAR, THIS PERCENTAGE BEING APPLIED EACH TIME TO THE PRECEDING AMOUNT.

IV - OF COURSE, SHOULD ANY PRODUCT COVERED BY THE CURRENT ARRANGEMENT, INCLUDING PINEAPPLES, BE SUBJECT TO REGULATION BY THE COMMON POLICY OF THE EEC, THE NATIONAL IMPORT SYSTEM NOW IN EFFECT WOULD BE REPLACED BY THAT ENACTED BY THE COMMUNITY.

V - IT IS CLEAR THAT THE OVERALL SOLUTION DESCRIBED ABOVE WOULD NOT IMPLY THAT THE USG RENOUNCES THE RIGHTS IT HOLDS UNDER THE GATT. THE FRENCH AUTHORITIES UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THAT UNDER THE HYPOTHESIS THAT THIS SOLUTION WOULD BE DEFINITELY ACCEPTED, THE USG WOULD ABSTAIN FROM USING THESE RIGHTS AND FROM BRINGING THE QUESTION BEFORE THE GATT CONTRACTING PARTIES.

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4. EMBASSY COMMENT FOLLOWS SEPTEL. DECON UPON RECEIPT.

IRWIN UNQUOTE

RUSH

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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